

## Claims

1. An apparatus comprising:

a tuner to receive modulated video signals, the tuner having an external control interface to receive commands in a first protocol from an external agent; and

a microcontroller to receive external tuner commands in a second protocol, to convert the external commands from the second protocol to the first protocol, and to transmit the converted external commands to the tuner.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the tuner further generates command responses in the first protocol and wherein the microcontroller receives the command responses, converts them to the second protocol and transmits the converted command responses.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a second tuner to receive modulated video signal, the second tuner having an external interface to receive commands in a third protocol, and wherein the microcontroller receives external commands for the second tuner in the second protocol, converts them to the third protocol, and transmits them to the second tuner.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the tuner further comprises an input/output interface to communicate data and control signals in the first protocol to

external devices and wherein the microcontroller is coupled to the input/output interface to convert data and control signals between the first protocol and the second protocol.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a system processor coupled to the microprocessor to generate the commands in the first protocol to control the tuner.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a look-up table for the tuner and wherein the microcontroller converts the external tuner commands by applying the commands in the second protocol to the look-up table.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising an instruction stack specific for the tuner and wherein the microcontroller converts the external tuner commands by applying instructions from the tuner-specific instruction stack.

8. A method comprising:  
receiving at a microcontroller from an external agent commands in a second protocol for a tuner;  
converting the external tuner commands from the second protocol to a first protocol; and  
transmitting the commands to an external control interface of the tuner in the first protocol.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

receiving command responses in the first protocol at the microcontroller from the tuner;

converting the received command response to the second protocol; and

transmitting the converted command responses to the external agent.

10. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

receiving at the microcontroller from an external agent commands in the second protocol for a second tuner;

converting the second tuner external commands to a third protocol; and

transmitting the third protocol commands to the second tuner.

11. The method of Claim 8, wherein converting the external tuner commands comprises applying the commands in the second protocol to a look-up table.

12. The method of Claim 8, wherein converting the external tuner commands comprises applying instructions from a tuner-specific instruction stack.

13. An article comprising a machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving at a microcontroller from an external agent commands in a second protocol for a tuner;

converting the external tuner commands from the second protocol to a first protocol; and

transmitting the commands to an external control interface of the tuner in the first protocol.

14. The medium of Claim 13, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising :

receiving command responses in the first protocol at the microcontroller from the tuner;

converting the received command responses to the second protocol; and

transmitting the converted command responses to the external agent.

15. The medium of Claim 13, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising :

receiving at the microcontroller from the external agent commands in the second protocol for a second tuner;

converting the second tuner external commands to a third protocol; and

transmitting the third protocol commands to the second tuner.

16. The medium of Claim 13, wherein the instructions for converting the external tuner commands comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising applying the commands in the second protocol to a look-up table.

17. The method of Claim 13, wherein the instructions for converting the external tuner commands comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising applying instructions from a tuner-specific instruction stack.

18. A video tuner comprising:  
a system processor to receive user commands and to control at least one tuner;  
a tuner to receive wireless video signals modulated over a carrier frequency, the tuner having an external control interface to receive commands in a first protocol from an external agent; and  
a microcontroller to receive tuner commands from the system processor in a second protocol, to convert them from the second protocol to the first protocol, and to transmit them to the tuner.

19. The tuner of Claim 18, wherein the tuner further generates command responses in the first protocol and wherein the microcontroller receives the command responses, converts them to the second protocol and transmits the converted command responses to the system controller.

20. The tuner of Claim 18, further comprising a second tuner to receive modulated video signals, the second tuner having an external interface to receive commands in a third protocol, and wherein the microcontroller receives second tuner

commands from the system processor for the second tuner in the second protocol, converts them to the third protocol, and transmits them to the second tuner.

21 The tuner of Claim 18, wherein the tuner further comprises an input/output interface to communicate data and control signals in the first protocol to external devices and wherein the microcontroller is coupled to the input/output interface to convert data and control signals between the first protocol and the second protocol.

22. The tuner of Claim 18, further comprising a look-up table for the tuner and wherein the microcontroller converts the tuner commands by applying the commands in the second protocol to the look-up table.

23. The tuner of Claim 18, further comprising an instruction stack specific for the tuner and wherein the microcontroller converts the external tuner commands by applying instructions from the tuner-specific instruction stack.